

The public airwaves are one of our most valuable community resources. The fact that people rely on large corporations to provide programming clouds the fact that these airwaves belong to the citizens, and are only licensed to broadcasting companies. With this in mind, I find it appalling that Sinclair Broadcasting has decided to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and a blatant attempt to influence an election with slander and propaganda.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.